DCCUMENT RESUME

ED 036 367 95 RC 004 074

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|---|---|
| TITLE | EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH. ANNUAL REPORT. |
| SPCNS AGENCY | OFFICE OF EDUCATION (DHEW), WASHINGTON, D.C. |
| PUB DATE | 68 |
| CONTRACT | OEC-4-7-205025-3964 |
| NOTE | 16P. |
| EDRS PRICE | EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$0.90 |
| DESCRIPTORS | CAREER PLANNING, *COUNSELING PROGRAMS, DEPRESSED AREAS (GEOGRAPHIC), *DISADVANTAGED YOUTH, DROPOUTS, ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGEMENT, *EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED, *EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, FEDERAL PROGRAMS, GUIDANCE, POVERTY PROGRAMS, *RURAL AREAS, VOCATIONAL COUNSELING |

ABSTRACT

THE DOCUMENT PRESENTS A VIEW OF THE PROGRAM, "EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH," OPERATING IN 20 COUNTIES IN NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI AND IN WILCOX COUNTY, ALABAMA. A DESCRIPTION OF THE POVERTY CONDITIONS FOUND TO EXIST IN THESE COUNTIES SERVES AS A FOUNDATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE REPORT. TALENT SCOUT TRAINING, TALENT SCOUT EFFORTS, AND STUDENT FIELD TRIPS ARE DISCUSSED AND EVALUATED. CASE HISTORIES ARE PRESENTED REFLECTING THE MAJOR WORK OF THE SCOUTS: THAT OF SUPPLEMENTING THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR BY COUNSELING WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS REGARDING VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL TRAINING. IT IS REPORTED THAT BETWEEN JUNE OF 1967 AND JUNE OF 1968, THERE WERE 6,633 INSTANCES IN WHICH THE EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH RENDERED SERVICES FURTHERING ITS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF REDEEMING THE EDUCATIONAL DEFICIT OF MINORITY YOUTH. DURING THIS TIME, SOME 506 YOUNGSTERS WERE REFERRED TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID. (DB)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

# EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

## Mississippi-Alabama (Wilcox County)

## #OEC-4-7-205025-3964

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Dr. Ernst H. Suerken
Project Director

Mr. Samuel H. Johnson
Project Coordinator

(Through June 14, 1968)

ED036367

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## "WHAT HAPPENS TO A DREAM DEFERRED?"

* * * * * * *

INTRODUCTION:

"A child who is hungry cannot learn."

"A child with an uncorrected visual or hearing impairment can fall so far behind, it is virtually impossible for him to make up the lost years."

"A child who has no access to books is culturally stunted before he starts."

"A child whose only companion is the squalor of the slums is almost hopelessly defeated."

These quotations, from a speech by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Wilbur J. Cohen, on July 31, 1968, are representative of the children and young people in the portion of the Mississippi Delta and in Wilcox County, Alabama which the Educational Talent Search for Mississippi-Alabama (OEC-4-7-205025-3964) is attempting to serve by showing them that defeat can still be turned into victory through education and training. These are areas distinguished by poor housing, inadequate living conditions, and low income. The people and their offspring contend with these conditions and are beset by family problems, financial problems, and a lack of self-confidence. The young people drop out of elementary and high school or graduate and decide that it is not worth the

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effort to go on.

Eight children and their mother live in a one-room shanty for which the rent is $15.00 a month. Eight children and their mother sleeping in one room make for unpleasant living conditions. A $15.00 a week income must pay all the living expenses, including the rent, for nine human beings. Another family lives in a house(?) without windows. Pieces of tin are nailed to where the windows ought to be to keep out the rain and the insects. There are only two beds for this family of eight. They are without clothing and food. There is no income.

Among these families, we find the overlooked and untouched forgotten youth in the God-forsaken little Delta hamlets and towns. It is here that the Educational Talent Search attempts to solve problems of all kinds, counsels and helps to activate dreams. Not all problems are directly related to the Talent Search Scout's primary objectives. For instance, one Talent Scout encountered a situation where the family residence for a widow with six children was destroyed by fire. The widow was the sole wage earner and could not take time off from work. The Talent Scout located a place for the family to live while arranging for cleaning up to make the place livable and help to arrange for the necessary, needed furnishings. Another Talent Scout was faced with a destitute family without funds or food to eat. The father earns a weekly income of $25.00 when work is available and he is able to work, but these opportunities are few and far between. Obviously, schooling and educational opportunities were not a major concern for this family with its basic pressing needs.

What follows tells what the Educational Talent Search did and how it went about making the impossible dream the possible dream for some young people who had given up and for those who were still hoping.

ORGANIZATION:

The first step in implementing the objectives of the Educational Talent Search was consultation with the Mississippi State Department of Education in order to establish an understanding of the needs in Mississippi. With the advice and consent of the Mississippi State Department of Education, it was established that the greatest need for the service was in the Northwest quadrant of the State, the Delta area, where it was suggested we concentrate our efforts in twenty counties. The map following shows the area (exclusive of Wilcox County, Alabama) in which the Project is operating.
(See Insert #1)

The next step was the organization of an Advisory Committee whose function it is to help establish policies, lend guidance to the Project, recruit and select the Talent Scout corps. The Committee is made up of two people from the Mississippi State Department of Education, an assistant Superintendent of Schools, a supervisor, counselor, and a college Dean of Students.

Advisory Committee Personnel:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | ALEXANDER, A.A.<br>1211 W. Pascagoula Street<br>Jackson, Mississippi 39203<br>353-2192 | State Department of Education<br>Jackson, Mississippi<br><br>353-9361, Ext. 822 |
| 2. | CARTER, Henrine (Mrs.)<br>443 S. Yazoo Street<br>Yazoo City, Mississippi<br>746-4540 | N.D. Taylor High School<br>Fifth and Lomar Streets<br>Yazoo City, Mississippi<br>746-1196 |
| 3. | ELZY, Amanda<br>200 West Taft Street<br>Greenwood, Mississippi 38930<br>453-7669 | LeFlore County Schools<br>P.O. Box 809<br>Greenwood, Mississippi<br>453-5571 |
| 4. | GORE, Joseph A.<br>Mary Holmes College<br>West Point, Mississippi<br>494-3564 | Dean of Students<br>Mary Holmes College<br>West Point, Mississippi 39773 |
| 5. | PAIGE, Gloria (Mrs.)<br>853 S. Prentiss Street<br>Jackson, Mississippi 39209<br>353-5666 | Brinkley High School<br>Jackson, Mississippi<br><br>362-9963 |

Rucker
Quitman
Coahoma
Bolivar
Tunica

Hilliard
Tate
Panola
Carroll

Morgan
Yalobusha
Grenada
Montgomery
E.Tallahatchie

Raines
Leflore
Sunflower
W.Tallahatchie

Levison
Washington
Issaquena
Sharkey

Browder
Holmes
Humphreys

Carter
Yazoo

Thomas
Hinds

TENN.

DE SOTO
Hernando
MARSHALL
Holly Sprs
BENTON
Ashland
TIPPAH
Ripley
ALCORN
Corinth
TISHOMINGO
Iuka
PRENTISS
Booneville
Baldwyn
UNION
New Albany
LEE
Tupelo
ITAWAMBA
Fulton
PONTOTOC
Pontotoc
Nettleton
TUNICA
Tunica
TATE
Coldwater
Senatobia
PANOLA
Crenshaw
Sardis
Batesville
LAFAYETTE
University
Oxford
COAHOMA
Friars Pt
Clarksdale
Marks
Lambert
QUITMAN
Sumner
Charleston
Water Valley
YALOBUSHA
Coffeeville
CALHOUN
Bruce
Pittsboro
Calhoun City
Okolona
Houston
CHICKASAW
MONROE
Amory
Aberdeen
ARK.
Shelby
Mound Bayou
Rosedale
BOLIVAR
Cleveland
Drew
Ruleville
TALLAHATCHIE
Tie Plant
GRENADA
Grenada
WEBSTER
Walthall
Eupora
CLAY
West Point
Shaw
LEFLORE
Duck Hill
MONTGOMERY
Winona
WASHINGTON
Greenville
Leland
SUNFLOWER
Indianola
Inverness
Itta Bena
Moorhead
CHOCTAW
Ackerman
OKTIBBEHA
Starkville
Columbus
LOWNDES
HOLMES
Belzoni
HUMPHREYS
Lexington
Durant
ATTALA
Kosciusko
Weir
WINSTON
Louisville
NOXUBEE
Macon
Shuqualak
Hollandale
SHARKEY
Midnight
Rolling Fork
YAZOO
Yazoo City
MADISON
Canton
LEAKE
Carthage
NESHOBA
Philadelphia
Union
KEMPER
Scooba
DeKalb
Electric Mills
ISSAQUENA
WARREN
Vicksburg
HINDS
Edwards
Clinton
Jackson
Raymond
Pearl
RANKIN
Pelahatchie
Brandon
SCOTT
Forest
Morton
NEWTON
Decatur
Newton
LAUDERDALE
Meridian
SMITH
Raleigh
JASPER
Paulding
Bay Sprs.
Heidelberg
CLARKE
Stonewall
Quitman
Shubuta
CLAIBORNE
Port Gibson
COPIAH
Crystal Sprs.
Hazlehurst
SIMPSON
Mendenhall
Magee
Taylorsville
LA.
JEFFERSON
Fayette
Wesson
LINCOLN
Brookhaven
Monticello
Prentiss
JEFFERSON DAVIS
Mt. Olive
COVINGTON
Collins
JONES
Laurel
Ellisville
WAYNE
Waynesboro
Natchez
FRANKLIN
Meadville
Bude
Bogue Chito
LAWRENCE
ADAMS
WILKINSON
Woodville
AMITE
Crosby
Gloster
Liberty
Centreville
Summit
PIKE
McComb
McComb South
Magnolia
Tylertown
WALTHALL
Osyka
MARION
Columbia
Sumrall
FORREST
Petal
Hattiesburg
LAMAR
Purvis
Lumberton
PERRY
Richton
New Augusta
GREENE
Leakesville
PEARL RIVER
Poplarville
STONE
Wiggins
GEORGE
Lucedale
HARRISON
Picayune
Lyman
JACKSON
Gulfport
Biloxi
Pascagoula
Ocean Springs
Escatawpa
Moss Point
Krebs
E. Side
HANCOCK
Waveland
Bay St. Louis
Pass Christian
Long Beach
Mississippi City
Wiggins
D'Iberville
Handsboro
W. Gulfport

LEGEND
State Capital
County Seat
FORREST - County Names

POPULATION KEY
Over 100,000
50,000 to 100,000
25,000 to 50,000
20,000 to 25,000
10,000 to 20,000
5,000 to 10,000
1,000 to 5,000
Under 1,000

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Advisory Committee Personnel (contd.):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6. | WILLIAMS, Mildred<br>Jackson State College, Apt. 20<br>Jackson, Mississippi 39205<br>353-9271 | State Department of Education<br>P. O. Box 771<br>Jackson, Mississippi<br>353-9361, Ext. 822 |
| 7. | JOHNSON, Samuel H.<br>511 Collier Ridge Drive, N.W.<br>Atlanta, Georgia 30318<br><br>794-6427 | Coordinator<br>Educational Talent Search<br>404-799-0015<br>Field Counselor<br>Educational Counseling Service |

The Advisory Committee undertook to screen applicants for the Talent Scout corps, beginning with the Consultation held in Greenwood, Mississippi on October 27-28, 1967. Out of the Committee's activity has evolved a ten-member Talent Scout corps headed by Mrs. Henrine Carter of Yazoo City, Mississippi in the capacity of Coordinating Talent Scout. Each Talent Scout is responsible for the particular area or county following his or her name. The Educational Talent Scout corps is composed as follows:

(See Insert #2)

Following the organization of the Talent Scout corps, needed forms were developed and revised to meet the existing needs on the field. They are duplicated and distributed to the Talent Scouts through Mrs. Carter. Every young person referred has a registration card which is filed in the Atlanta office and then distributed by the Coordinator to the individual Talent Scouts. Each Scout submits monthly reports which cover the number of youth counseled, number of adults and families counseled, number of home visits, number of school visits, and the individuals referred for educational counseling and financial assistance.

The Talent Scouts have been given a course of instruction concerning the forms to be used and the procedures to be followed. In summary form, these may be listed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Narrative reports | Statistical reports |
| Payroll vouchers | Social security |
| Telephone calls | Employees Withholding Exemption Certificate |

Referral records Statement of travel expenses

These are the mechanics of the Program that everyone concerned needs to understand in order to be of service to the young people the Project is attempting to help.

The Talent Scouts are the heart of the Program for they act as enabling agents with in-school and out-of-school youth, parents, school and community agencies. Their function is to complement and supplement the school counselor and others at all times, not to supplant anyone. The Scouts have the time to go into the home, interpret processes to parents, enlisting their cooperation and support. They help and guide students and their parents in completing application forms, financial statements and other needed and necessary forms. Often, their services are available when no one else's is. One of the objectives is to be in the right place at the right time. One of their constant functions is to re-vitalize previously eager parents and young people who lose faith all too easily and become indecisive because the Program has not brought about "instant results." Not all parents or young people are receptive to what the Program has to offer.

"The Hungry World of Teresa Pilgrim"

"The Hungry World of Teresa Pilgrim" is the title of a Look magazine article (December 26, 1967; page 40) which tells the situation "like it is" in Mississippi, particularly the Delta area. The Educational Talent Search and its Scouts had educational opportunity "to sell" when the need was for food, clothing, and shoes in houses "where you can see the earth through the floor and the sky through the roof." Hungry and inadequately clothed youngsters and their parents are not particularly eager to talk about education and what it has to offer when they have these immediate and, obviously, more pressing problems.

We found youngsters existing at the starvation level. There was an infant whose only clothing was a paper bag. Lack of clothing and

shoes kept youngsters out of school. Many of them were ill because of inadequate shelter, food, and clothing. This brought about what we call "Mission Impossible" for we had to show our concern by meeting some of these basic needs before we could hope to implement the Educational Talent Search objectives. Since we could not utilize contract funds for this purpose, we had to raise and utilize funds from other sources.

We were able to secure food, clothing, zinc tubs needed for bathing, and other necessities. These were distributed throughout the blighted areas of the region in which the Educational Talent Search is operating. 124 persons were helped with our original distribution of food. One mother's comment was, "This will be the first time that I've had real food to cook in quite a spell." Food was distributed to seventeen families, involving 124 individuals. The size of the family served ranged from 2-17 persons. Thirty cartons of clothing made up an initial shipment into the Humphreys and Yazoo County areas. A shoe company in Atlanta, Georgia agreed to mark down $15.00 shoes to $3.00 so we could afford to purchase them with our limited resources. Our efforts with food had a salutory effect on widening the food stamp plan in the area and opening up other provisions to meet this basic need. We have continued to send truckloads of clothing and books for distribution throughout the area.

Our efforts have been geared to helping families to recognize the need for continued schooling while helping them with their basic needs, both with youngsters in the family, elementary schools, and high schools. We are hopeful that many youngsters will return to high school and that others will go to college or receive other appropriate post-high school training.

* * * * * * *

"A Morning with Jimmy" - College Scope - Educational Field Trips.

Three of the most effective tools used by the Talent Scouts in their work were College Scope, the film: "A Morning with Jimmy," and the educational field trips to Atlanta, Georgia.

College Scope is a compact 54-page pocket size booklet which gives concise, accurate information about all accredited four-year colleges and universities in the United States. It lists such items as enrollment, entrance requirements, scholarships available, tuition, board and room on campus, and the principal fields of study with a section devoted to "Planning Your Future." It serves several purposes: As a conversational piece or introductory item for the Talent Scouts to talk about, as a handbook for youth to use and utilize which also affords the Talent Scouts an opportunity to demonstrate and explain its use, as a source of basic information for young people, and to whet their appetite for more information. More than 3,600 copies of College Scope have been distributed to young people. This is more than the total of young people actually counseled which means that we did not always meet with success for there were those who did not respond to the overture. The purpose and use of College Scope in the Project is best summed up by the legend which appears on its front cover:

Coming together is beginning
Keeping together is progress
Thinking together is unity
Working together is success.

Initially, the film: "A Morning with Jimmy" was shown to the Talent Scouts as a group and the implications highlighted through discussion. It was then made available to the individual Talent Scouts for showing in their particular area. It was given heavy exposure throughout the twenty-county area and, in a sense, served as

excellent preparation for the educational field trips to Atlanta which were designed to acquaint boys and girls with today's vocational world and a sampling of the new employment opportunities available today.

The Talent Scouts accompanied five students from their own areas on the Atlanta field trips. The students selected were those who had never had an opportunity to travel outside of their own home area before. Several members of the Advisory Committee accompanied the group. Travel was by Trailways bus from Jackson to Yazoo City, Belzoni, Greenwood, Carrolton, Hillcrest, on to Atlanta. One young man had to be literally yanked from his tractor seat in the field to make the trip. The group from Wilcox County, Alabama made the trip in three station wagons under the supervision of Talent Scout Claude C. Brown. Accomodations were provided for the entire group at Paschal's Motor Hotel and adequate provisions were made for meals throughout the stay.

The trips and its activities provided both an opportunity and an experience for the 88 neglected youth who participated. It challenged and exposed these young people to a world they had never seen where they had "a chance to see" and "a chance to be" for this was a new experience for each of these young people.

There was both enthusiasm and a lack of enthusiasm for the trips before it was undertaken. It was not easy to persuade everyone that they should go. There were parents who refused permission for their children to go and there were young people who hung back, incapable of deciding that they should go or wanted to go.

The best way to give you the flavor of the trips and the reactions of the participants is to let you read the following MEMOIRS which is divided into three parts: An Introduction, a graphic presentation in pictures, and the individual reactions of 36 individual participants:

(See Insert #3)

In essence, 88 young people were shown a glimpse of the promise that the future holds for them and were inspired to work for their own brighter tomorrow.

RIPPLINGS, REACTIONS AND REPERCUSSIONS:

The young people who participated in the Atlanta field trips returned to their communities as ambassadors. They reported on their experience in assemblies. They talked to their friends about what they had seen and heard. Their friends talked to other friends and there has been a long-range rippling effect throughout the region.

One principal's reaction was that he had not heard this particular boy say anything in a group until he made this report on his trip. Another participant's reactions was that he hated to get up in a cold house after having so much comfort in Atlanta. Parental reaction was favorable in that many parents called and came to see the Talent Scouts. Many students changed their minds following the trips, finding new motivation to be college-bound. Mrs. Carter had so many seeking advice, counsel, and guidance that she had to set up special hours. Mrs. Carter was motivated to prepare a skit for presentation on "Wise and Unwise Actions." Biblical characters were used since the Bible was the one book that the young people were most likely to have access to at home and elsewhere. Mrs. Carter's purpose was to start the young people thinking on the wise and unwise choices that these people made, motivating them to do further reading about the consequences of the wise and not-so-wise choices that these people made.

This opened the way for Mrs. Carter to go back into the community with her film and counseling service. It also paved the way for other Talent Scouts throughout the region because many young people from other Delta communities were in attendance.

Mrs. Carter points out that among the many repercussions from

the trips were students, parents, and others coming to seek information about jobs, school, health, income tax, and personal problems of varying degrees. Perhaps Mrs. Carter has made the best summation of the trip and its effects in this one sentence: "I see a better community in the future because this spark has started a huge blaze."

RESULTS (June 1967 to June 1968):

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Youth counseled | 3,289 |
| Number of Adults counseled | 639 |
| Number of Families counseled | 679 |
| Number of Home visits | 1,353 |
| Number of School visits | 148 |
| Referred for financial aid | 506 |
| Other (miscellaneous) | 19 |

Thus, there was a total of 6,633 instances in which the Educational Talent Search rendered services furthering its primary objective of redeeming the educational deficit of minority youth.

506 were referred to colleges and universities for admission and financial aid. Of this, 345 were in desperate need of assistance. The colleges and universities with which the Educational Talent Search worked and to which referrals were made are: 1) Selma University, 2) Alabama State College, 3) Mary Holmes College, 4) Barber-Scotia College, 5) Mississippi State College, 6) Knoxville College, 7) Tennessee State University, 8) University of Dubuque, 9) Morris Brown College, 10) Ripon College, 11) Rust College, 12) Southern Illinois University, 13) Tougaloo College, 14) Prentist Institute, 15) Coahoma Junior College, 16) University of Alabama, 17) Alcorn A. & M. College, 18) Delta State College, 19) Blackburn College, 20) Memphis State University.

These referrals were made by the following members of the Educational Talent Search Talent Scout corps and their associates:

1) Miss Katie Moore, 2) Russell Batter, 3) M.C. Cleveland, Jr., 4) Miss Blanche Chavers, 5) Mrs. Ruby Hilliard, 6) Mrs. H. Carter, 7) Mrs. Exie Thomas, 8) Mrs. Rosa Levison, 9) Miss Christine Hughes, 10) Homer L. Body, 11) Paul Rucker, 12) Jasper Browder, 13) Charles Raines, 14) Mrs. Lorene Morgan, 15) Claude C. Brown.

Behind every one of the statistics given there is a story. Obviously, we cannot flesh out every one of the more than 3,289 youth counseled with his or her particular story. Perhaps, the following vignettes will put some flesh on the dry statistical bones for these are living, breathing young people with whom we are working.

ALEX, at 22, supports his seven brothers and sisters on a monthly income of $50.00 earned at a service station. The parents are deceased and the younger children can only look to Alex for their support. It is small wonder that Alex feels trapped with no way out in sight.

BERNICE lives with her brothers and sisters. Mother is deceased and the father has been in a state mental institution for years. The children have been left alone to raise themselves despite adverse factors and the environment. Bernice wants to go to college. Thanks to the Educational Talent Search, she initiated her college program at Coahoma Junior College through the Work-Study Program.

WILLIE, a highly intelligent young man, gave up on college or anything else following high school. He said he had no desire to continue his education beyond high school. The Talent Scout sensed that he was not sincere in his statement and pointed out the disadvantage of not having an education. Thanks to the Talent Scout's patient persistence, Willie is currently enrolled at the junior college level in pursuit of further education.

If MARIE doesn't succeed in life, it certainly won't be because she lacks courage. Marie was a victim of circumstances, giving birth to a child at sixteen while a senior in high school. She stayed out

five years before she returned. It took a lot of counseling to get her to return and graduate from high school. She is currently enrolled in junior college on the Work-Study Program.

J.W. was accused of getting a girl pregnant which led to his dismissal from high school his senior year. Naturally, he took a dim view of life from this slough of despond and despair. His life experience had been that of a sharecropper all his life with barely anything to eat or wear. Despite these setbacks, he knew that he wanted more out of life. He was advised, counseled, and helped to return to another high school from which he graduated this spring. He is now a student at a junior college with a new lease on life, having successfully crossed the line into young manhood.

BETTY is a mature young woman whose maturity was forced on her because her father is a poor provider. On the family farm, the girls and mother do all the heavy work, ploughing the mules, later the tractor. To get away from it all, Betty married as soon as she graduated from high school. Her husband proved to be even a worse provider than her father. She returned home feeling doomed for life until she had the opportunity to talk with a Talent Scout who helped Betty to find a place for herself at Coahoma Junior College where she is now working and studying.

Behind the statistic that is CAROLYN, there is a golden voice which has been described as "terrific," crying out to be trained.

HOLLIS is gifted in designing, art, choral music, dramatics, and dancing. He is interested in choreography. While in high school, he designed the uniforms for the school band. He is now on his way to the training he needs and wants.

* * * * * * * * * * *

The foregoing tells how the Educational Talent Search and the Scouts have gone about meeting the overall objectives of the

Educational Talent Search, answering the challenge to the Talent Scouts, both literal and figurative, which seems to appear on many faces. "Let us see how good you and your program really are."

We are currently in the business of not deferring dreams for those who have them:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore---
and then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over---
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

...Langston Hughes

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ernst H. Suerken
Project Director

Mr. Samuel H. Johnson
Project Coordinator

# EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH SCOUTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1, | Mrs. Henrine Carter,<br>Coordinating Talent Scout<br>for Mississippi<br>443 South Yazoo Street<br>Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194<br>746-4540 | N. D. Taylor H.S.<br>Fifth and Lomar Streets<br>Yazoo City, Mississippi<br>746-1196 | (Yazoo Area) |
| 2, | Claude Brown,<br>Coordinating Talent Scout<br>for Wilcox Co., Alabama<br>625 Jeff Davis Avenue<br>Selma, Alabama 36701<br>874-5692 | Supervisor, Alabama<br>Day Schools<br>United Presbyterian<br>Church, USA<br>874-5692 | |
| 3, | Marshall C. Cleveland<br>614 First Avenue<br>Selma, Alabama 36701<br>872-2676 | Selma University<br>Dean, School of<br>Religion<br>Selma, Alabama | (Wilcox County) |
| 4, | Jasper Browder<br>P. O. Box 386<br>Belzoni, Mississippi 39038<br>247-3285 | McNair Attendance<br>Center<br>Belzoni, Miss.<br>247-1595 | (Humphrey Area)<br>Humphrey County<br>Holmes County |
| 5, | Mrs. Rosa Lee Levison<br>112 Robb Street<br>Leland, Mississippi 38756<br>686-7762 | Lincoln Attendance<br>Center<br>Leland, Mississippi<br>686-7919 | (Washington Area)<br>Washington Co.<br>Sharkey County<br>Issaquena County |
| 6, | Mrs. Lorene Morgan<br>P. O. Box 82<br>North Carrollton, Miss. 38947<br>237-4447 | | (Winona Area)<br>Yalobusha Co.<br>Grenada County<br>Montgomery<br>East Tallahatchie |
| 7, | Charles Raines<br>Route 2, Box 191<br>Greenwood, Mississippi 38930<br>453-5847 | Amanda Elzy H.S.<br>Leflore County<br>Greenwood, Miss.<br>453-3394 | (Greenwood Area)<br>Leflore County<br>Sunflower County<br>West Tallahatchie |
| 8, | Paul Rucker<br>737 Second Street<br>Marks, Mississippi 38646<br>FA 6-7345 | Quitman County H.S.<br>Marks, Mississippi<br>FA 6-5191 | (Quitman Area)<br>Quitman Co.<br>Coahoma County<br>Bolivar & Tunica Co. |
| 9, | Mrs. Exie Thomas<br>1319 Mayes Street<br>Jackson, Mississippi 39206<br>362-6660 | Blackburn Jr. H.S.<br>Jackson, Mississippi<br>355-8416 | (Jackson Area)<br>Hinds County |
| 10, | Mrs. Ruby Hilliard<br>513 Powell Street<br>Winona, Mississippi 38967<br>283-2166 | J. J. Knox H.S.<br>Winona, Mississippi<br>283-1244 | (Carroll County)<br>Tate County<br>Panola County |

March, 1968

MEMOIRS

It was the third weekend in March, 1968, when 44 high school students from Hinds, Yazoo, Humphrey, Holmes, Washington, Sharkey, Issaquena, Yalobusha, Grenada, Montgomery, Tallahatchie, Tate, Panola, Leflore, Sunflower, Carroll, Quitman, Coahoma, Bolivar, and Tunica Counties of Mississippi and Wilcox and Dallas Counties of Alabama journeyed to Atlanta, Georgia, for the First Educational Talent Search Field Trip, accompanied by 10 Talent Scouts. The Field Trip had been carefully planned and studied by the Advisory Committee, Scouts, and others.

Many had never been away from home overnight nor had been outside of their immediate environment. With so much untapped human resources together, it was felt that these students should be challenged.

Thus, the schema began on Friday morning. Students were assigned to five groups plus two adults. The students were not cognizant that the schema was geared to changing and building attitudes, whetting appetites for knowledge, and sharpening insights and perceptions. Personnel from Lockheed, Western Electric, Coca Cola, Southern Bell, and Atlanta Army Depot took over for the day. So off to the various companies to see industry in action.

If all the comments could have been recorded, they would have filled several volumes. Each group felt that its experiences were greater than the others. These comparisons continued Saturday and even after each group made its report.

The visit with the Upward Bound students at a local college was another highlight. The rains came but it did not prevent the rare treat of hearing the Atlanta Symphony performance. The guest conductors were great--"Who ever dreamed of seeing a live composer," but they did--and indeed how they enjoyed it.

As the spokesman for the group stated:
"The trip has given us a goal in life. The idea will make us prosper for the rest of our lives. It also enriched our thoughts about the goals we have to set in life....The contagion of spirit and physical assertion....made us understand more about our intake of learning.... It also told us to get all the knowledge we can so we can help our fellowman. What we are going to be is left up to us."

Yes, there was something different about them. A positive difference that augured hope and success in the years to come. Thanks to all who worked so diligently in making this event a success. The following pictures provide a graphic presentation of a part of the programmed activities which affected, touched, changed, and inspired.

"You are expected to make good, not excuses."

YOUTH
GUIDANCE
FOR
A
BETTER
TOMORROW!!